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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: C. Stulberger
ROYCE E. SLICK, et al.)
: Group Art Unit: 2132
Application No.: 09/411,070)
: Filed: October 4, 1999)
: For: TARGETED SECURE)
PRINTING : July 7, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 7, 2004 (Paper No. 12).

Claims 1 to 104 and 122 to 140 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 2, 13, 16, 17, 29, 32, 33, 45, 48, 49, 61, 64, 65, 76, 79, 80, 92, 95, 96, 122, 125, 126 and 138 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 5,633,932 (Davis) in view of U.S. Patent 5,956,407 (Slavin), or over U.S. Patent 6,378,070 (Chan) in view of Slavin. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

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July 7, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

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(Name of Attorney for Applicant)

Signature

July 7, 2004

Date of Signature

The invention involves secure transmission of data to an intended image output device which uses the data to generate an image in the presence of an intended recipient. According to the invention, a double-encryption process twice encrypts the data using a first key and a second key, wherein the first key is a public-key of a first private-key/public-key pair and the second key is a public-key of a second private-key/public-key pair. According to one aspect of the invention, the private-key of the first private-key/public-key pair is primarily in the sole possession of the intended image output device, whereas the private-key of the second private-key/public-key pair is primarily in the sole possession of the intended recipient of the image.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, in order to decrypt the twice-encrypted data, both the private-key of the intended image output device and the private-key of the intended recipient are required. The present invention therefore reliably provides secure transmission of data, for the reason that the twice-encrypted data can be decrypted only in the presence of the intended recipient at the intended image output device.

In entering the rejections over Davis in view of Slavin and Chan in view of Slavin, the Office Action concedes that both Davis and Chan are deficient in that they both disclose only a single encryption. According to the rejection, Slavin's column 13 shows a double encryption process such that a combination of the patents renders the invention unpatentable. Applicants respectfully disagree.

It is true that Slavin describes a double encryption process which uses first and second public-key/private-key pairs. However, in Slavin's process, the private-key of


both the first and second pairs is held by exactly the same individual, which in Slavin's description is the intended recipient of the double encrypted message. This differs from the invention, in which the private-keys of the first and second pairs are primarily in the sole possession of separate entities, namely the intended image output device for the first private-key and the intended recipient of an image for the second private-key.

As a consequence, even if the combinations proposed in the Office Action were permissible (which is not conceded), it would still not result in the invention for the reason that the combination would be characterized by first and second public-key/private-key pairs wherein the private-key of both pairs was in the possession of the same individual. In contrast, according to the invention, the first private-key is primarily in the sole possession of an intended image output device, whereas the second private-key is primarily in the sole possession of the intended recipient for an image.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein recite subject matter that would not have been obvious over any permissible combination of the applied art, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", is written over a horizontal line.

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